

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Former Crime Family Associate Indicted Anew for Witness Tampering During His 2001 Union Embezzlement Trial

(More)

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TRENTON – Joseph Lore, convicted in December 2001 of embezzling money from International Longshoremen's Association Local 1588 of Bayonne, was arraigned today on a charge of tampering with a witness during a federal trial, U.S. Attorney Christopher J. Christie announced.

During Lore's 2001 embezzlement trial, when the government's main cooperating witness, Eugene G'Sell, was on the stand and the attorneys were speaking with U.S. District Judge Mary L. Cooper at a sidebar, Lore made repeated threatening hand gestures to the witness. He put his hand in the shape of a gun and pointed it at the witness, G'Sell, pretending to "shoot" him while mouthing the words "your dead."

As a result, Judge Cooper declared a mistrial and the case was retried one month later. In the retrial, prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney V. Grady O'Malley, Lore was convicted of conspiracy to embezzle more than \$750,000 from Local 1588, making false statements and embezzlement from the union. Lore was sentenced in July 2003 to 70 months of incarceration at the Federal Correctional Institute in Coleman, Fla.

The defendant is now charged in a one count Indictment, returned on April 28, for attempting to intimidate, threaten, or corruptly persuade a witness in order to influence, delay or prevent his testimony at Lore's criminal trial. Lore was brought to New Jersey last week for today's arraignment on the new Indictment before U.S. District Judge Stanley R. Chesler.

The tampering with a witness charge carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Despite Indictment, the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Christie credited Special Agents of the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of the Inspector General, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Thomas Sommero, for their continuing work in the investigation.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Hallie A. Mitchell of the U.S. Attorney's Office Organized Crime Strike Force Unit in Newark.

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Defense Counsel: Catherine Brown, Esq., Morristown